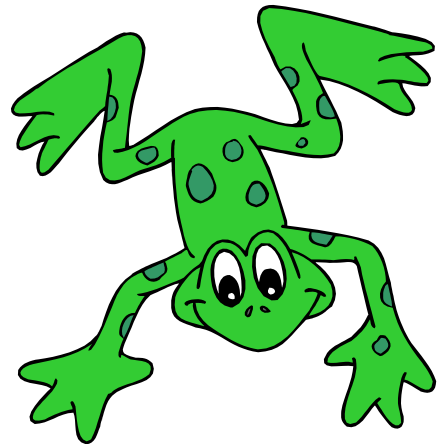


# First Grade Leaps Into Learning

November 19, 2010



## *Reading News*

To review what we learned this week, ask your child the following questions (*correct answers provided*): What letters and sounds did you learn? (u and th). What keys did you learn to read (ut, un, ink, and um)? Try to list as many words as you can that are in these keys!

Next week and the week after fall vacation we will work on the letters and sounds for z, qu, y, and e. Our new keys will be ug, ub, uck, ill, and et. The "circle" words will be *or*, *two*, *much*, *such*, *us*, *good*, *Mr.*, *need*, *our*, *saw*, *right*, *time*, *try*, *away*, *food*, *funny*, and *hide*.

It is very important for your child to have an extensive sight word vocabulary. Many common words in English, such as "the" and "one", don't fit phonics rules, so your child needs to memorize them. As s/he gains more experience in reading, s/he instantly recognizes other common words. This makes it easier to focus on the meaning of a passage or story. Instant recognition of sight words will also help your child to become a more fluent, expressive reader.

## *Math News*

We have been using four "**Addition Strategies**" to increase speed and accuracy in addition:

- ❖ Counting on 1 or 2
- ❖ Turnaround Facts
- ❖ Counting On from the Greater Number
- ❖ Use a Number Line to Count On

Next week we will do some Thanksgiving math and the following week will learn the strategies of "Add 0" and "Add with Doubles".

## *Science / Social Studies News*

We have been learning about Force, Motion, and Energy (Science SOL 1.2). The key concepts for this standard are

- objects may have straight, circular, curved, and back and forth motion;
- objects vibrate;
- pushes and pulls can change the movement of an object; and
- the motion of objects may be observed in toys and in playground activities.

We used a catapult to launch marshmallows, played with the forces of **push** and **pull**, and **observed** strings moving on a guitar to learn about **vibrations**. Mr. Russell demonstrated vibrations with instruments in his music class, too! We also learned about the force of gravity. You can help your child's understanding of these concepts grow by using the words **push**, **pull**, **straight motion**, **circular motion**, and **back and forth motion** as you play and work together around the house. Toy cars, hammers, hand or electric mixers, saws, screwdrivers, playground swings, and sliding boards can all be examples for observing force, motion, and energy!

Next week we'll be learning about Thanksgiving (Soc. St. SOL 1.1). We'll enjoy some Thanksgiving stories and make some Thanksgiving art projects. We're even going on "A Turkey Trot" at the WCHS track!

The week after fall vacation, just in time for the holidays, we'll focus on the economic concept of **needs and wants** (Soc. St. SOL 1.8).

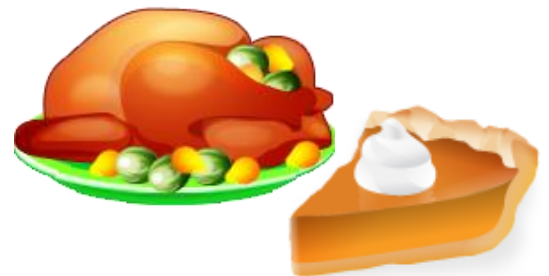
### *Special Request!*

Please be sure to send an **empty, gift-wrapped box** to school. You do not need to use one of your good gift boxes for this. You can wrap up any empty box such as a cereal box. Any type of paper is OK! We will be using them for math throughout December.



### *Important Dates in November*

- 24 - Early Release at 1:00
- 25 - NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Holiday
- 26 - NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Holiday
- 30 - PTO Movie Day "Tangled" at 4:00



**Happy Thanksgiving!**

**Next newsletter will be sent December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**